Halifax metro

Your essential daily news | WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2016 High -5°C/Low -7°C Partly sunny

NEPTUNE THEATRE
DREAM WEDDING GONE WRONG
metroNEWS



SCOTIABANK CENTRE
$650K



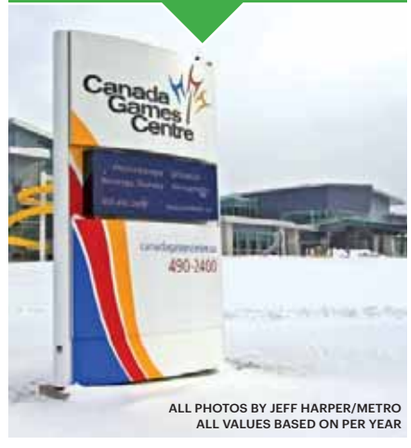
EMERA OVAL
$50K



BMO CENTRE
$10K
(Reported, city wouldn't confirm)



CANADA GAMES CENTRE
$???



ALL PHOTOS BY JEFF HARPER/METRO
ALL VALUES BASED ON PER YEAR

The high price of a good name

HALIFAX FACILITIES

Canada Games Centre selling naming rights



Zane Woodford
Metro | Halifax

The Canada Games Centre will be the next building in the municipality to have its naming rights sold after a tender closes Friday.

The tender, posted online in December, says the city is looking for a partner "that shares the values, vision and mission of the organization as (it strives) to make people healthy and contribute to Halifax allowing it to grow and prosper."

"I very much support this," area Coun. Reg Rankin said Tuesday.

"I don't see the downside."

Coun. Tim Outhit's district includes the BMO Centre, the city's "first foray" into selling naming rights.

"In most cases, what I hear is, if it's being used for a good purpose, and if it's a way of getting back a little money from these banks and all these service charges that they charge all of us, that's a good thing," he said Tuesday.

Outhit said he respects the opinion that the government should pay for and maintain these buildings, and that not all naming rights should be up for sale, but he sees the sale of naming rights as a way to stay on top of maintenance in Halifax Regional Municipality's facilities.

The tender for the Canada Games Centre naming rights says the money could go towards "marketing opportunities, community engagement and events at the CGC, establishment of a fee assistance program for access, reinvestment into facility equipment and fund capital reinvestment."

It also lauds the building as prime real estate for ad space.

"It is conveniently located in the centre of Halifax and as such, has premium visibility by over 30,000 vehicles passes each day," the tender reads.

Rankin said he hopes that translates to some larger bids.

"They'd get a lot of hits everyday in terms of traffic from both the users and the vehicular traffic," he said. "I'd be looking forward to a pretty good response."

A city spokesperson said in an email Tuesday that staff hope to have a recommendation before Halifax regional council in the next "several months."


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metro NEWS

Your essential daily news



Astronaut Scott Kelly plants a thriving zinnia in space station. **World**

CRIME

Police seek duo after bus driver assaulted



Kristen Lipscombe
Metro | Halifax

Halifax Regional Police are hoping the public can help track down two suspects, a man and a woman, who allegedly assaulted a 47-year-old bus driver on New Year's Eve.

Police received the assault report from Route 66 at about 11 a.m. on Dec. 31, responding to the Penhorn Mall terminal in Dartmouth, where the bus was parked at the time, according to a police news release issued Tuesday.



One of the two suspects. HO

The driver was assaulted after asking the male suspect to exit the bus, after the suspect had allegedly "abruptly pushed past a female passenger as she was proceeding down the aisle."

The suspect did not immediately leave the bus, instead arguing with the driver and allegedly spitting in his face before exiting. The driver also exited the bus and the suspect then allegedly hit him in the face, police said.

The female suspect who was with the male suspect at the time then allegedly kicked the driver in the legs after he had fallen to the ground, police said.

The man and woman took off from the terminal on foot. The bus driver sustained non-life threatening injuries, but declined treatment from paramedics, the news release said.

Anyone with information on the incident, or who can identify the two suspects, is asked to call Halifax Regional Police at 902-490-5016 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.

BARRETT CASE

Autopsy inconclusive on how victim died

Although the death was ruled a homicide, an autopsy failed to conclusively determine the cause of death of a Glace Bay woman who was reported missing in 2006 and whose skeletal remains were found two years later.

Dr. Marine Wood, a forensic pathologist with the provincial medical examiner's office, testified Tuesday she attended the wooded area in Glace Bay where the remains were found.



Thomas Ted Barrett TC MEDIA

She said given there was an attempt to conceal the body, she ruled the death to be a homicide.

The body was found face down in a wooded area off a trail leading to an old dump in Glace Bay.

However, after an autopsy on the remains, Wood was unable to conclude an exact cause of death.

Wood's testimony came during the second day of a Supreme Court trial, judge alone, for Thomas Ted Barrett, 40, of Glace Bay. He is charged with the second-degree murder of Brett Elizabeth McKinnon, 19, also of Glace Bay.

McKinnon was last seen in July 2006 and was reported missing by her family. Her remains were found in 2008. TC MEDIA

IN BRIEF

Board suspends licence of doctor for misconduct

The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia has reprimanded a Halifax doctor for professional misconduct for improperly prescribing opioids.

The decision against Dr. Rayan Alhazmi was released Monday by the college, which is the governing body for doctors in the province.

As part of a settlement reached in December, Alhazmi's licence was suspended for 12 months.

The complaint against Alhazmi, a post-graduate in internal medicine at Dalhousie University, was made in the summer of 2014 after a pharmacist identified "unusual and questionable" prescribing of opioids.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Helo, a German shepherd, had just started training with Const. Tim Reid in December. The 14-week-old puppy **died due to complications from surgery after accidentally eating small rocks and rope.** HALEY RYAN/METRO

RCMP puppy dies following surgery

ANIMALS

Helo had three procedures after eating rocks and rope



Haley Ryan
Metro | Halifax

Just weeks after joining the force as a happy, noisy recruit, an RCMP puppy has died.

Helo, a 14-week-old German shepherd, passed away Monday at the Atlantic Veterinary College in Charlottetown due to complications from surgery, the Mounties said.

"It's difficult to lose ... a member of the RCMP in any way," spokesman Const. Mark Skinner said Tuesday. "It's just a really unfortunate circumstance."

Skinner said the RCMP believe Helo managed to eat some rope and small rocks, which became caught in his intestine and required surgery.

There were complications from the first surgery, so Helo was taken to P.E.I. for a second and then third surgery, with the dog passing away after the final procedure, Skinner said.

Although this situation is "very rare," Skinner said similar puppy deaths have happened before.

Skinner said the puppies in the RCMP training program receive an "extremely high" level of care from their quarries (officers training to become official dog handlers), but can't be watched at all times.

> **It's difficult to lose a member of the RCMP in any way.**
> Const. Mark Skinner

"They do a lot of biting and chewing at this point," Skinner said. "(To) watch exactly what they're putting in their mouth is very, very difficult to do."

Skinner said Helo's quarry, Const. Tim Reid, has been saddened by the situation but will eventually take over another puppy to begin the socialization and training he planned to do with Helo.

Helo arrived in Nova Scotia in early December 2015 with his brother, Hamer, who Skinner said will continue the puppy program in the hopes of becoming a police service dog.

During a press conference last month, Helo was a bundle of energy as he barked and jumped around, while Hamer was quiet and lay on the floor.

Skinner said people can still follow Hamer's progress in the puppy program on the RCMP's social media accounts.

DARTMOUTH

Teen faces charges in gas station armed robbery



Philip Croucher
Metro | Halifax

Police say they have charged a 17-year-old boy in the armed robbery of a Dartmouth gas station last week.

A staff member at the Ultramar at 219 Pleasant St. called police on Jan. 10 around 10:50 p.m. to say someone robbed the store while armed with a knife.

The suspect fled the location with smokes and money, but police were unable to find him.

On Monday evening, police say they arrested a 17-year-old male from Halifax on Barrington Street in relation to the robbery.

ACCUSATIONS

The boy is charged with robbery with a weapon and breaching his probation.

Capital flows into capital

INFRASTRUCTURE

HRM gets funds, but province provides less than last year



Haley Ryan
Metro | Halifax

The province's new $645-million capital plan has most funding going to roads and buildings, including the Halifax Convention Centre, with the only money for the aging Victoria General Hospital put into planning.

"It's a disgrace, and so it needs to be fast-tracked, not put on hold," acting NDP leader Maureen MacDonald said about the deteriorating Queen Elizabeth II Health Sciences Centre site.

"That needs to be job No. 1 in a capital plan."

Finance Minister Randy Delorey announced the plan Tuesday.

It includes $480.8 million for roads, schools, public infrastructure and health care, plus $164.2 million for the Halifax Convention Centre.

Taking out the one-time convention centre expense, it is roughly $9 million less than last year.

"We would like to do more," Delorey said. "However, this year's capital plan is a reflection on the fiscal reality in our province."

While $26.5 million is planned for hospital improvements, about $1.5 million has been marked for high-level design and planning around moving services out of the Centennial Building at the VG site before a replacement can begin, Delorey said.

"The risks of failing to plan adequately are far too great," Delorey said.

"Governments really have a history of what happens when you rush."

But MacDonald said the former NDP government had begun planning a replacement site and done two years of preliminary work, including expansions to the Dartmouth General Hospital, where services could move.

When asked about whether the spending on the convention centre is worth it for taxpayers, Delorey said the project has already given back to those in the construction and supply industries, and should continue in tourism spinoff when visitors start exploring the rest of Nova Scotia.

The Halifax Convention Centre funds will be shared three ways, with the federal government paying the developer $51.4 million upon completion, and the province and Halifax Regional Municipality each paying $56.4 million over 25 years, with the city paying back Nova Scotia.

Delorey said while it's unclear what projects are eligible for federal infrastructure money, $43.1 million has been set aside as contingency for various projects, including anything federal.

"I'd certainly like to see our provincial Liberal government standing up and fighting for more of that money, because we have big infrastructure needs," PC finance critic Tim Houston said.



"This year's capital plan is a reflection on the fiscal reality in our province." Finance Minister Randy Delorey

Above: The Nova Centre, which will house the new convention centre, in construction this week. **Below: The Victoria General Hospital .** JEFF HARPER/METRO



TOP 5 EXPENSES

These are the most expensive items in the 2016-17 capital plan:

- **Highways and structures** $222.5 million
- **Buildings and land** 107.6 million
- **Halifax Convention Centre** $164.2 million
- **Information technology** $30 million
- **Vehicles and equipment** $17.8 million

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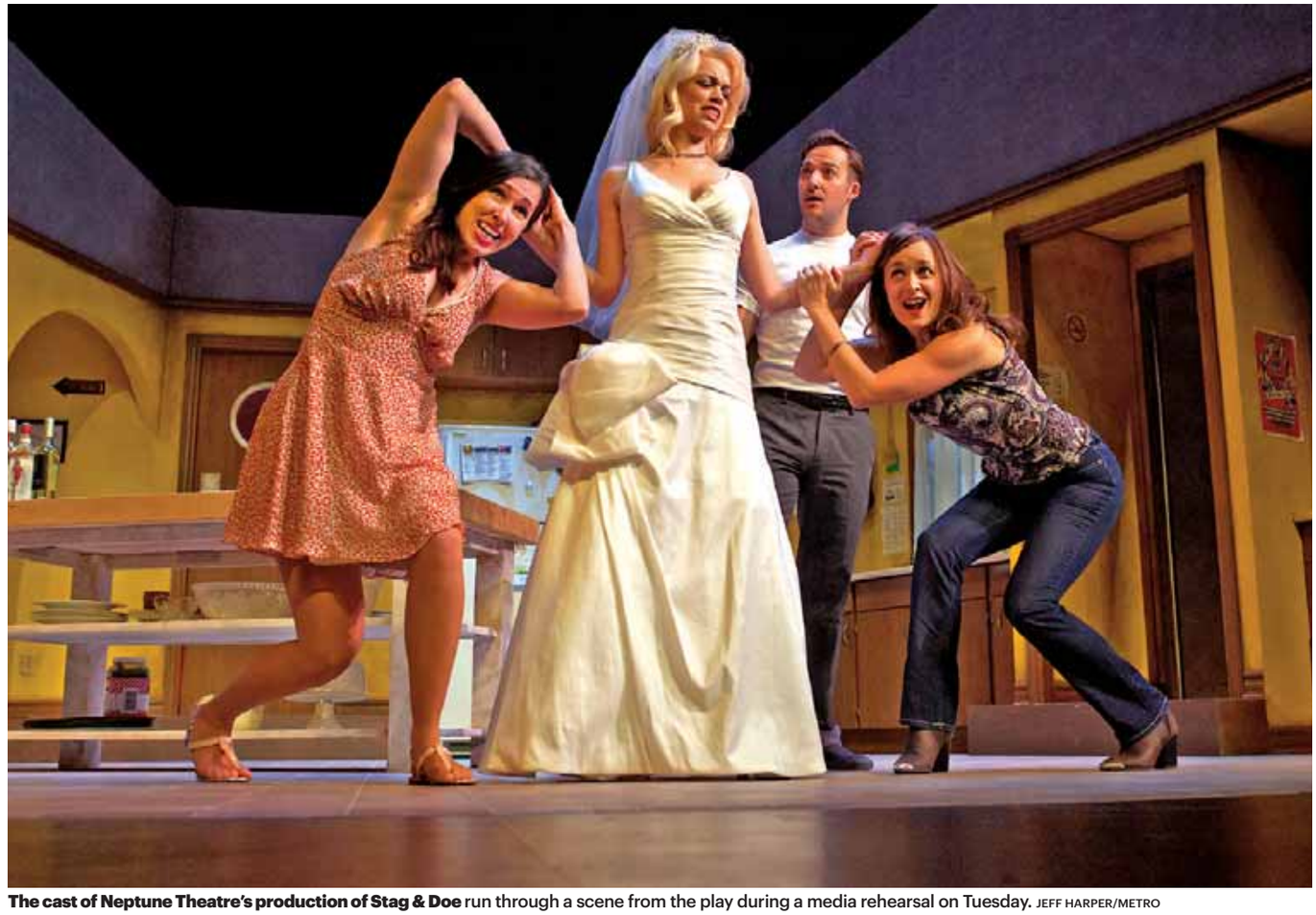
Wedding gone wrong for all to see

NEPTUNE THEATRE

Play explores comedic side of what should be bride's day



Zane Woodford
Metro | Halifax



The cast of Neptune Theatre's production of Stag & Doe run through a scene from the play during a media rehearsal on Tuesday. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Imagine your dream wedding. Now imagine the exact opposite.

Stag & Doe, a play debuting at Neptune Theatre on Friday, is a comedic look at just that: a wedding gone horribly awry.

"It's a date play," said director Miles Potter after a media call on Tuesday.

Potter first brought the play — Mark Crawford's playwright debut — to life at Ontario's Blyth Festival in 2014.

A stag and doe party is an Ontario tradition where a bride- and groom-to-be hold a party to raise money for their wedding. In this case, the party gets hijacked by a bride and groom whose outdoor wedding is derailed by a storm.

And things don't get any smoother from there.

Potter said it's "a comedy of errors," but it also has a social commentary aspect to it.

"These people are caught up in this wedding industrial complex — $6,000 dresses, $6,000 caterers, speeches three hours long — and what they realize at the end is that that's not what it's about," he said.

"The prince and the princess is a myth that the industry wants you to buy into because you will spend a lot of money."

Maria Dinn plays Mandy, the hair-pulling, crotch-kicking bride whose big day has fallen apart.

"She exaggerates and explodes every little thing, and I think we can all identify with Mandy," Dinn said after the media call.

"Until I know where she's going emotionally, I have to kind of take it really seriously, and really go there and believe it, and not mock her or comment on her, but really believe that this is a great tragedy."

Daniel Gervais plays Rob, the groom trying (and failing) to smooth things out between Mandy and many of the other characters.

"They're kind of buying into the whole fantasy about the wedding, and I think audiences hopefully will see a little bit of themselves in some of the characters," he said.

For both he and Dinn, neither of whom has taken the marital plunge, the allure of a big wedding has certainly worn off.

"As an actor, when you're in a wedding dress for the run of a show, you kind of get over the fantasy of being in a dress, or being that princess for a day," said Dinn.

"If I do get married, I'm going to know how to deal with it calmly, and not make the mistakes that Rob makes," said Gervais.

> "You kind of get over the fantasy of being ... that princess for a day."
> Maria Dinn, who plays Mandy the bride

TICKETS

Stag & Doe runs from Friday to Feb. 7. Tickets are $27 plus tax.

RESCUE

Man stranded on highway in storm says RCMP saved his life

A former Nova Scotia man credits two RCMP officers with saving his life after he became trapped in last weekend's blizzard for more than four hours.

"I was as good as dead — they saved my life. "

Allan McIntosh, 46, who hadn't been back to his hometown of New Waterford for seven years, was travelling home to see his ailing father. He travelled from Ontario to Truro by train on Saturday, but after arriving in Truro at 6 p.m., he had missed the Maritime Bus. He said the storm was just getting started there, so he paid a taxi driver to catch up to the bus.

"Once we got on the highway, it really turned into a wicked storm."

He said they caught up with the bus at the bus stop in New Glasgow. McIntosh said at this point the bus driver informed passengers the roads were bad.

The bus driver ended up pulling into the Irving Big Stop in Aulds Cove, announcing the roads were too bad to continue.

"I can't blame the bus driver for calling it a day — it was a massive blizzard."

McIntosh said the bus driver said he was going to stay at a hotel and anyone unable to afford a hotel could wait in the restaurant for the night.

> **"I was shivering, could hardly talk.**
> Allan McIntosh

"I might have misunderstood him, but I thought he was pointing out the window, that there was a hotel right across the road."

It wasn't until McIntosh was off the bus that he realized there wasn't a hotel there.

McIntosh said the restaurant was closing in 15 minutes, and the only other option was he could have stood inside the variety store all night.

"I walked to the outside of the parking lot and dropped my bag of clothes in the snowbank because it was too heavy to carry, and started walking up the highway."

He said the blizzard only got worse.

"It was whiteout conditions."

McIntosh said he was on a mission to get home to see his sick father, so he kept going.

About four hours later, McIntosh said he lost hope. He said he sat in a snowbank and sent a text to his wife telling her he couldn't go any further.

"She called my uncle here and he called the Mounties," he said.

"I was shivering, could hardly talk. They really did save my life."

After paramedics checked McIntosh, RCMP retrieved his bag of clothes, then took him to a hotel in Port Hawkesbury.

"It was the same hotel where the bus driver was."

McIntosh said he's not upset with the bus driver or company.

"I'm just glad to be home."

Wenda Pitre, director of business services with Maritime Bus, said the company posts all storm warnings on its websites so people know they travel at their own risk.

She said during any storm it's ultimately up to the driver if they go any further.

"The driver then took the passengers wanting to stay in a hotel to Port Hawkesbury."

Pitre said the driver did his job. CAPE BRETON POST

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Carmen's legacy of love

PAYING IT FORWARD

Girl's untimely death sparks outpouring of generosity

Carmen Huskilson was a courageous five-year-old from Nova Scotia who spent her early years defying all odds.

The community joined her family in grief when Carmen died unexpectedly Jan. 12.

"We are completely overwhelmed and happy and humbled with everyone's generosity and love and support," the girl's mother, Jennie Huskilson, said on Monday.

At Carmen's funeral and through her obituary, Jennie and Andrew Huskilson asked that the community "pay it forward" in their daughter's name.

"In keeping with Carmen's outlook on life, we believe this is a time to make our community stronger and better so we ask you: Please Pay it Forward in her name," wrote the Huskilsons. "We will be eternally grateful as she loved helping others."

It did not take long for the community to take hold of the request and spread it far and wide.



Carmen Huskilson and her brother, Ryan. CONTRIBUTED

On the day of Carmen's funeral, Jan. 15, TLC Pharmacy in Shelburne paid it forward for her by buying everyone's prescriptions and purchases throughout the day.

> **We are so, so thankful for everything, big and small.**
> Jennie Huskilson

People have been paying for orders of coffee for the persons behind them in line.

Hundreds of "paying it forward for Carmen" stories have also been posted in the Facebook group Paying it Forward, In memory of Carmen Faith Huskilson.

"My heart is broken but exploding with joy at the same time," wrote Jennie Huskilson to the group.

Reports of paying it forward for Carmen have spread as far as Texas and Vancouver.

Others are donating to the local schools at Hillcrest Academy and Little People's Place where Carmen attended. Some donations, including a pizza party, were made to help cheer up the classmates who are missing their little friend.

However, the movement isn't stopping here in southwest Nova Scotia. People are printing out "pay it forward" cards in Ontario, P.E.I. and Alberta and passing along a kind act and asking only if another kind act is given to another in Carmen's name.

"We wanted to do this to try and spread positivity through our community and try and give back what we could even through this rough time," Huskilson said in an interview.

The family was approached by friends and members of the community asking how they could help.

"This is what we came up with," Jennie said.

TC MEDIA

WEATHER

Parking ban ahead of storm

The city was asking certain residents to find off-street parking overnight Tuesday so targeted snow removal could get at "problem areas" before another storm hits.

In a release Tuesday, the municipality asked residents in Halifax and Dartmouth urban cores move vehicles off streets from 8 p.m. Tuesday to 8 a.m. Wednesday, so crews could remove snow and improve curb cuts.

The affected streets were about two dozen.

According to HRM, with another storm expected this weekend it's important for crews to be able to remove what snow they can now.

Last winter, storms quickly coming one after another made snow storage a big issue as well as sidewalk clearing and bus-stop access in the urban core, the release said.

The municipality said crews will be out every evening this week to carry out the work.

METRO



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Havoc over email foul

CITIZENSHIP

'Human error' to blame for immigration fee blunder

Immigration officials are red-faced in the wake of an email sent in error to 9,000 people demanding payment of their $490 right-of-landing fees.

The email indeed came from Immigration Refugee Citizenship Canada (IRCC) but the problem is the recipients had either already paid the fee and become permanent residents, or in some cases, their immigration applications were nowhere close to being approved.

The foul-up caused panic for those already settled and disappointment for those still in the queue who thought their cases had finally been concluded. While some speculated the computer system had been hacked and applicants' information compromised, the department assured them this was not the case and their information was safe.

> **The question is what we do about the payment now. Are we any closer to getting our permanent resident status?**
> James Cassidy

Having been caught up for 15 months in the backlog of the Canada Experience Class applications for permanent immigrant status, James Cassidy of Toronto was thrilled when he got an email from immigration at 11:34 a.m. Monday, asking for his landing fee, thinking his application had been approved.

"Obviously, I was delighted and I paid the fee straight away. However, my joy was short-lived. After several hours, we all received another email stating that the previous request was sent in error and to ignore it," said the IT professional from Ireland.

"The question is what we do about the payment now. Are we any closer to getting our permanent resident status?"

Adrian Carabajal, who got his permanent resident status last July, got the same email at 11:08 a.m. Monday. "I thought it's got to be a mistake, but it made you wonder if anything was wrong with your immigration file," said the winemaker from Argentina.

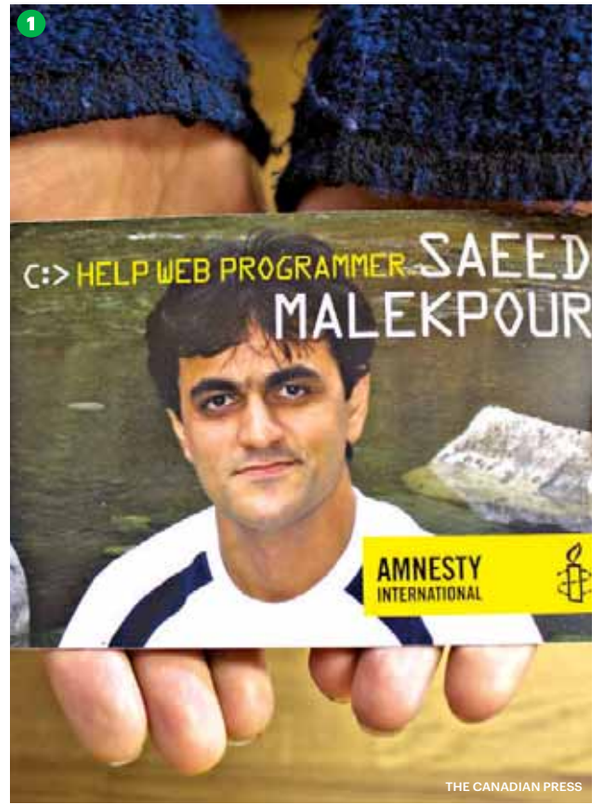
According to immigration officials, Cassidy and Carabajal were among 9,000 applicants who "inadvertently" received a request for fees on Monday due to a human error.

"IRCC strives to provide excellent client service," said department spokesperson Nancy Caron. "If any of these clients accidentally re-pay or pay the fee that is not required, the department will refund their costs. This error will not affect the processing of any applications."

The two-page emails appeared to be the same except for the clients' personal information and identification number.

"We wish to remind you at this time that your Right of Permanent Residence Fee (RPRF) is outstanding. You must pay this fee before a permanent resident visa can be issued," said the email from the department's case processing centre in Ottawa. "Your response to the above request is required within 30 days."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



THE CANADIAN PRESS



TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

1 Saeed Malekpour — Iranian-born Malekpour emigrated to Canada in 2004, but on a visit to Tehran in 2008 he was he was arrested on charges of working with a foreign government to subvert the clerical regime with Internet pornography. He is now serving a life sentence in Evin prison.

2 Mostafa Azizi — Azizi emigrated to Toronto from Iran and became a permanent resident in 2010. After returning to Iran to be with his ailing father, he was arrested in early 2015 and sentenced to eight years in prison for "collusion against Iran."

POLITICAL PRISONERS

Time may be ripe to lift Iran sanctions

When the plane carrying Washington Post reporter Jason Rezaian and two other freed American prisoners touched down in Germany on Saturday, a new page was turned in U.S.- Iran relations.

The prisoners' release, enabled by the diplomatic bond between U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif, also gives new hope to two Canadian permanent residents behind bars in Iran.

Saeed Malekpour, serving a life sentence, and Mostafa Azizi, an eight year term, are also political prisoners. And relatives are awaiting word from the Trudeau government that the chilly relationship between Canada and Iran that grew colder with the severing of diplomatic relations in 2012 will thaw enough to allow a new rapport.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau welcomed the "quiet diplomacy" that led to the Iran nuclear deal.

In his election campaign, Trudeau pledged to reopen the Tehran embassy that was shuttered under the Harper government. But Foreign Minister Stephane Dion said that while it "cannot be done overnight," it would be done "properly in a timely manner."

A more rapid move could be the lifting of Canadian sanctions against Iran. A briefing note written for Trudeau and obtained by The Canadian Press says that Ottawa could lift them "as early as winter 2016 and as late as summer 2016."

> As a country we intend to speak out on human rights.
> Liberal MP Ali Ehsassi

Dion suggested the cabinet would make a decision quickly — a move that could give Canadian companies the chance to bid for Iranian contracts that might be snapped up by the U.S.

Whether warming relations would lead to the release of the Canadian prisoners is still in question.

In Canada, where negotiations for prisoner releases have been grounded, the time may now be ripe for a new start, propelled by lifting of sanctions and reopening of the embassy.

For now, says Liberal MP Ali Ehsassi, himself the son of a former Iranian diplomat, "I can assure you that as a country we intend to speak out on human rights, and the minister is very much concerned with both cases. The department is doing what it can on those cases."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

BAGHDAD

Iraqi civilians are dying at a 'staggering' rate: UN report

Iraq witnessed a sharp increase in civilian deaths following the fall of large swaths of territory to the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) in the summer of 2014. Now despite a string of recent battlefield losses for ISIL, civilians in Iraq continue to die at a "staggering" rate, according to a new United Nations report.

At least 18,802 civilians were killed and another 36,245 were wounded in Iraq between the start of 2014 and Oct. 31 of last year, according to the report.

"Despite their steady losses to pro-government forces, the scourge of ISIL continues to kill, maim and displace Iraqi civilians in the thousands," UN envoy Jan Kubis said in a statement.

The numbers are nowhere near the death tolls recorded during Iraq's civil war. In 2006 more than 34,000 civilians were killed, according to UN data.

The report also documented human rights abuses, like ISIL's conscription of 3,500 people into slavery. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS


People carry the body of a victim killed in a truck bombing in Baghdad in 2015.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

IN BRIEF

'Jihadi John' dead: ISIL
The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) has acknowledged the death of the masked militant known as "Jihadi John," the SITE Intelligence Group said Tuesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Green-thumbed astronaut nurses zinnia to full bloom
The International Space Station now has a bright pop of orange, thanks to commander Scott Kelly's green thumb. Kelly showed off his thriving orange-yellow zinnia over the weekend. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDIA

Suicide of student triggers protest

Shouting slogans and holding placards, hundreds of students on Tuesday angrily protested the death of an Indian student who, along with four others, was barred from using some facilities at his university in the southern tech-hub of Hyderabad.

The protesters accused Hyderabad University's vice chancellor and a federal minister of unfairly demanding punishment for the five lower-caste students after they clashed last year with a group of students supporting the governing Hindu nationalist party.

Police are investigating whether actions by the officials contributed to the 26-year-old doctoral student's death, which they say was a suicide.

He had been a member of a group representing Dalits, the lowest caste in India's Hindu caste hierarchy.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Postmedia cuts 90 jobs across newspaper chain

PRINT MEDIA

Journalists take to Twitter to announce their layoffs

Postmedia Network Canada Corp., Canada's largest newspaper chain, has begun making dramatic cuts at its media properties — including merging newsroom operations in cities where it has two papers.

In a memo to all staff, Paul Godfrey, president and CEO, said the company was eliminating 90 jobs across the chain as part of efforts to cut $80 million in costs by next year.

However, Godfrey made it clear that it would continue to operate the two papers in Ottawa, Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver, though there will be only one newsroom.

"Let me be clear on one very important point — we will continue to operate separate brands in each of these markets. What is changing is how we produce these products," Godfrey said. Each city will have one newsroom, under one editor.

It also plans to offer a buyout program in the Vancouver and Ottawa newsrooms as part of the one newsroom initiative.

On Twitter, journalists started announcing their own departures including the National Post's basketball writer Eric Koreen and Edmonton Journal's editor-in-chief Margo Goodhand and managing editor Stephanie Coombs.

Goodhand tweeted: "So sorry to leave that tremendously talented @edmontonjournal newsroom. No regrets."

Coombs tweeted: "Super sad to say as of today, I'm no longer with the @edmontonjournal. It's been a privilege to work there and tell Edmonton's stories."

Last week, when Postmedia, which owns the National Post and the Toronto Sun, reported its latest earnings, executives made it clear that it was accelerating its goal to cut costs as it continues to bleed advertising, print circulation and digital media revenue.

Postmedia says last year's acquisition of Quebecor's Sun Media newspapers helped push up the combined company's revenue to $251.1 million — up from $169.5 million for Postmedia alone.

However, the company is now aiming for cost reductions of $80 million by mid-2017 — up from its previous goal of $50 million in cuts by the end of 2017.

The company said it expects the first $50 million of savings will be implemented by the end of its third quarter, which ends May 31.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Multimedia reporter Sam Cooley makes his way to his car after being laid off from the Ottawa Sun on Tuesday. Postmedia is stepping up plans to slash costs amid mounting revenue losses.
SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

POSITIONS LOST

Number of jobs lost across Postmedia operations:

- **Edmonton Journal & Edmonton Sun:** 35 combined jobs were lost.
- **Calgary Herald & Calgary Sun:** 25 combined jobs were lost.
- **Ottawa Citizen & Ottawa Sun:** A total of 12 jobs were lost.
- **National Post:** Five jobs were lost, mostly in the sports department.
- **Saskatoon Star-Phoenix:** One job lost
- **Windsor Star:** One job lost.

SUN TAKEOVER

Top 6 execs get sunny bonuses

In the midst of its cuts, Postmedia is paying nearly a million dollars in bonuses to executives for their hand in the deal to buy the Sun newspapers.

A total of $925,000 in discretionary bonuses was paid out to its top six executives in the 2015 fiscal year ended in August, according to company documents filed Wednesday.

CEO Paul Godfrey, whose base salary was unchanged at $950,000, received $400,000 in the payout. He was also the only executive to receive a bonus under the short-term incentive plan. The short-term bonus amounted to $118,750, even though the company fell short of its operating profit target used to calculate that bonus structure.

Godfrey's total compensation was $1.76 million, up from $1.42 million the previous year.

Ousted chief operating officer Wayne Parrish received a $150,000 bonus related to the Sun acquisition, plus a $1-million severance package after his termination in July — twice his $475,000 base salary.

Postmedia spokeswoman Phyllise Gelfand said the payments were part of a special transaction bonus related to the highly leveraged $316-million takeover of Sun Media's English-language dailies and digital properties.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Unstable times, except in the C-suite. metroVIEWS

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MEDIA

Broadcaster buys stake in The Onion

The Spanish-language broadcaster Univision is buying a stake in the owner of satirical website The Onion, in what may be considered a serious grab for younger viewers.

"I'm happy to announce that we've just finished a deal with what might at first seem like an unusual partner: Univision," wrote Onion Inc. CEO Mike McAvoy in a memo to employees. He said Univision has acquired "a good chunk" of Onion Inc. and may acquire the remainder down the line.

Once solely comedic enterprises have earned younger audiences who rely on them as a news source.

The Pew Research Center found that 12 per cent of Americans cited The Daily Show on Comedy Central as the place where they got their news, with that number skewing heavily toward younger viewers.

While The Onion veers well outside of news boundaries, its preposterous articles regularly involve politics, health care and science. Univision says it sees comedy as crucial in covering news for young people, particularly with the upcoming U.S. presidential election.

There is a scramble by TV networks for younger viewers and their spending dollars. Disney, the owner of ABC, Disney and ESPN, has invested in digital video network Vice; Comcast's NBCUniversal has put money into online content and news hubs BuzzFeed and Vox.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Disney recalls onesies
Walt Disney Parks and Resorts are recalling Darth Vader and Disneyland 60th anniversary infant onesies because the snaps can detach and pose a choking hazard.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

market minute

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metro VIEWS
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Wednesday, January 20, 2016

URBAN ETIQUETTE ELLEN VANSTONE



THE ISSUE

I have two cats. Certain allergic friends show up at my house and, forgetting I have them, request an antihistamine. If you're that allergic, shouldn't you carry a Claritin in your wallet?



Dear Ellen,

I have two cats. Certain allergic friends routinely show up at my house forgetting I have them, and then request an antihistamine. A while back, a friend even brought another friend, whom I didn't know, and the friend of the friend seized up and started pleading for me to find an antihistamine. Sorry, but cats aren't iguanas or tarantulas — it's not that rare for someone to have one. He should keep a bloody Claritin in his wallet if he's that allergic. I spent 10 minutes searching the house for a remedy while my other guests waited to have their cocktails made. Advice?

Victor, Toronto

Dear Victor,

You don't mention whether or not your 10 minutes of searching resulted in finding an antihistamine or not. Should I wonder if, even if you did find one, that you might have pretended otherwise in order to let the allergic friend of the friend suffer? Or even have to leave the party if the symptoms overwhelmed him?

That wouldn't be the best example of good manners, I suppose. But I could certainly understand the impulse. And I say this as a guest who has committed the sin you describe more than once: I know I'm allergic to cats, have forgotten about my host's cats and have then asked said host for an antihistamine on the few occasions I've failed to pack my own.

Guests who come for dinner should come with the attitude that they're lucky to be there at all.

Now that I see it from your point of view, I'm acutely aware of how annoying this must be. To all my cat-owning friends who've so kindly provided me with pills over the years, please accept my sincere apologies!

The point is guests who come for dinner, be they allergic, non-allergic, invited or uninvited, should come with the attitude that they're lucky to be there at all. The only demand any guest may reasonably make is to have access to a washroom with a working door.

Otherwise, their job is to show abject gratitude from the moment they enter bearing a bouquet of flowers, bottle of something nice, and a policy of praising everything you own, say or do — from the cleverly situated salt-encrusted boot tray in your front hall right down to the dusty after-dinner mints you apparently filched from the checkout counter at a family restaurant in 2002.

You as host, meanwhile, have the equally important responsibility of pretending everything your guests say or do is utterly charming: "No, I didn't know you were a vegan — let me whip up a toasted-kale and chickpea loaf for you"; "Don't worry about that old crystal; it's just a wedding gift my great-grandmother smuggled out of Odessa before the revolution. It was bound to break some day hahaha!"

It sounds as if you did play the perfect host in the scenario you describe, Victor, so you don't need etiquette advice. What you do need is practical advice so you can avoid the ill-effects of lasting resentment over rudely allergic guests and your simmering anxiety over failing to get drinks quickly into the hands of your other guests.

You have two choices: 1) Keep some antihistamines on hand, ideally in the spice cupboard between the anise and the Baharat, which you can easily access when an allergic freeloader shows up; 2) Rid your house of all antihistamines so you can truthfully say, "Sorry, I don't have anything on hand, but there's a Shoppers just down the road."

And then start serving those drinks.

Need advice?
Email Ellen:
scene@metronews.ca

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD
metroview



Dear media execs, when times get tough, the tough take pay cuts

If he has a heart, which some journalists doubt, Paul Godfrey might now be regretting those diamond-studded Sun newspaper cufflinks.

Turns out, they're not such a good look for a job-slashing newspaper CEO.

Yesterday Postmedia announced it's cutting 90 jobs and dramatically changing the local news scene in four cities by merging the newsrooms of its Sun-tabloid and broadsheet papers in Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary and Ottawa.

As Canadian journalists flocked to Twitter to decry the news, Godfrey's name topped the trending charts, and photos of his executive bling flooded newsfeeds.

To be clear: Newspapers everywhere are in crisis. Print-ad revenue continues to dive, and online ads can't come close to filling the gap.

But the crisis has yet to hit the salaries of Canadian media executives.

Journalists, ad reps and admin staff are the ones bearing the brunt of the industry's beating. Yet the C-suite is still downright lucrative. And the incongruence is galling.

In a memo to staff, Godfrey used pat euphemisms such as "ongoing pressures" and described the cuts as a "transformation." Postmedia's plan to cut $80 million by the end of 2017 "requires looking at everything in a new way," he noted. "Nothing is off the table."

Except, presumably, cutting his own salary.

Postmedia posted a net loss of $4.2 million late last year. At the same time, Godfrey enjoyed a pay raise. He earned $1.76 million in 2015, up from $1.42 million the year before. He and his executive-suite colleagues were handsomely rewarded to the tune of $925,000 for having overseen the acquisition of the Sun chain earlier this year — a deal that made yesterday's "transformation" possible.

Of course, Postmedia isn't the only company with well-paid executives and struggling newspapers. Quebecor paid its CEO nearly $15 million in 2014, the year after it slashed more than 1,000 Sun Media jobs. According to Bloomberg, the total calculated compensation of the CEO of Torstar, which owns this newspaper, the Toronto Star and Metroland papers, was about $3 million in 2014.

(The Globe and Mail is privately held, and isn't required to divulge executive pay.)

Every North American paper is suffering, and obviously it's not because every CEO is bad at her job.

But the least executives can do is show times really are rough, and take a pay cut.

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Kate Middleton to guest-edit Huffington Post U.K., focusing on child mental health

Best of men's runway

With male models about to walk the runways in Paris and New York, we take a look at the biggest Fall/Winter 2016 fashion and beauty trends straight from Milan. THE CANADIAN PRESS/GETTY IMAGES



Boyish bohemian at Gucci

Creative director Alessandro Michele unpacked a chest full of 1970s memories for his latest Gucci menswear collection. His runway-realized looks reference a happy boyhood, with Sherlock Holmes-style detective capes and caps, Snoopy and Woodstock motifs on T-shirts, a Charlie Brown sweater, and a crinkly Western cowboy shirt with boot-leg jeans. Grown-up Gucci looks incorporated floral prints, a mainstain of the house, into embellished and embroidered coats and suits, and pyjamas.

Lap of luxury at Fendi

Life is pretty plush at Fendi. A model glided down a carpeted spiral staircase in a soft plaid overcoat-cum-dayrobe with matching trousers to soothing soul music. Think Jack Nicholson playing golf in his robe, one of the references on Silvia Venturini Fendi's mood board backstage.

Fendi's looks were all about cozy comfort, right down to the lush accessories: A parka with yellow fur trim was paired with a large yellow, furry bag. Plaids and checks on jackets, pants and bags created a homey feel, and Fendi boldly paired mohair jackets with matching pants, for a definite Fozzie Bear feel.

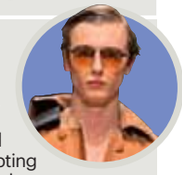


Urban formal at Emporio Armani

The Emporio Armani man is urban and sleek. There is no excess, just the essential. Giorgio Armani used new technology to bond materials for his more contemporary line, creating new forms and a futuristic feel. Formal double-breasted jackets were worn with pleated trousers. A shawl jacket with diagonal zipper was paired with athletically cut pants.



BEAUTY



Side part
The go-to look for designers, Prada distinguished itself by opting for a slicked-over do. Philipp Plein exaggerated the look by letting roots show on dyed hair.



Long hair
Many models strutted with long hair breezing out behind them. At Vivienne Westwood the look was bedraggled, while at Calvin Klein models wore their shoulder-length locks with a slick center part.



David Bowie beauty
The most eye-catching looks were at Moncler Gamme Bleu, where models sported camouflage face paint and false lashes. While Vivienne Westwood sent models out wearing vibrant eyeshadow that matched their shirts. AFP



JOHANNA SCHNELLER
WHAT I'M WATCHING

Denis Leary's knack for writing banter



Sirens follows some fast talking Chicago EMTs. CONTRIBUTED

THE SHOW: Sirens, Season 1, Episode 1 (Crave)
THE MOMENT: The first conversation

Three Chicago EMTs are speeding to hospital. The driver is Johnny (Michael Mosley), whose cop girlfriend has a hot male partner. Attending to the victim is Hank (Kevin Daniels). The new guy is Brian (Kevin Bigley). Their conversation is lightning fast.

Johnny: She wouldn't say that if she didn't still care about me.
Hank: Alternate theory — she wants into Denzel's pants.
Brian: I think his name is Danny.
Hank: Denzel to me. Hot Mo Better Blues Denzel. (*to Brian*) I'm gay, by the way.
Brian tries to be cool.
Brian: You know who I think is a good-looking guy? Tim Tebow.
Hank: Who's your ICE (in case of emergency contact), Brian?
Brian: My mom. Well, she lives right upstairs.
Johnny: You got a girlfriend?
Brian: We broke up. She got clingy.
Hank: Your girlfriend's clingy. Tim Tebow is handsome. I got a better shot at p— tonight, and all I'm thinking about is Denzel's lips.
Johnny: Can we stop calling him Denzel?

I knew nothing about this show (USA cancelled it last April), but this is love at first sight. Isn't that a thrill — when you know instantly you're in expert hands?

Denis Leary co-created Sirens, and like his previous series, the excellent Rescue Me, it shines brightest when characters give each other s—. Leary has a genius ear for how funny people talk.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

Canadian Screen Awards announces nominees

AWARDS

Oscar-hopefuls lead pack with most nominations



Brie Larson and Jacob Tremblay star in the film Room, which leads the Canadian Screen Awards with 11 nominations. HANDOUT

The Canadian Screen Awards will have some Oscar-style glamour this year.

Room, the chilling story of a young mother and five-year-old young son held in captivity by her kidnapper, leads the CSA pack with 11 nominations, including nods for Best Motion Picture, Best Director (Lenny Abrahamson) Best Actress for Brie Larson, Best Actor for Canadian Jacob Tremblay and Best Supporting Actress for Joan Allen. The Irish-Canadian production, winner of the 2015 TIFF People's Choice Award, has four Oscar nominations.

Triple Oscar nominee Brooklyn, also an Irish-Canadian co-production, is up for three CSAs, including Best Motion Picture, although star Saoirse Ronan was overlooked.

It's too early to say which stars will be seen on the red carpet or at the CSA gala, hosted by comedian Norm Macdonald at the Sony Centre and telecast on CBC on March 13.

Past CSA host Martin Short will receive a lifetime achievement award at the awards evening.

Martin Katz, chair of the Academy of Canadian Cinema & Television, pointed out there were 21 Oscar nominations for Canadians this year, helping make it a "record-breaking year" for homegrown film.

For the first time there are 10 Best Motion Picture nominees, including Corbo, The Demons (Les Démons), Felix and Meira, The Forbidden Room, My Internship in Canada, Our Loved Ones (Les êtres chers), Remember and Sleeping Giant, as well as Room and Brooklyn.

On the TV side, comedy Schitt's Creek led with 14 nominations (plus one Digital Media nomination). Father-son team Eugene Levy and Dan Levy are both up for Best Performance by an Actor in a comedic role, with Annie Murphy and Catherine O'Hara both nominated for Best Performance by an Actress in a Comedy.

Orphan Black has 13 nominations, including Best Actress for star Tatiana Maslany. Police drama 19-2 and comedy Mr. D had 12 nominations, with 11 nods for series The Book of Negroes (plus one Digital Media nomination).

Paul Gross-directed Afghan war drama Hyena Road earned eight nominations on the film side, with seven for Our Loved Ones (Les êtres chers) and five each for Endorphine, Felix and Meira (Félix et Meira) and Forsaken.

Helga Stephenson, CEO of the Academy, said like filmmakers in Australia and England, Canada is forging stronger links with Hollywood.

"As the film business becomes more global, which it truly is, you'll see more global personalities on our (CSA) red carpet as you see on the red carpets all around the world," she said.

These international partnerships help indie cinema flourish. "Nobody can do them alone anymore," Stephenson said. "Yes, it is the future."

The CSAs meld the former Genie and Gemini awards and recognize the best in Canadian film, TV and digital productions.

Awards in 132 categories are given out during Canadian Screen Week, March 7-13, along with various events including a meet-the-stars Fanzone event at the Eaton Centre March 12.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

BOOKS

Caitlyn Jenner book deal

Grand Central Publishing announced Tuesday that it plans a spring 2017 publication for a memoir by Jenner, the transgender activist and reality star and former Olympic athlete.

The book will be co-written by Friday Night Lights author Buzz Bissinger, who wrote a Vanity Fair cover story about Jenner.

According to Grand Central, the memoir will follow Jenner's life "from Bruce to Caitlyn, and her brave transition into womanhood."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LITERATURE

Giller Prize jury announced

The Book of Negroes author Lawrence Hill has been selected to chair this year's Scotiabank Giller Prize.

The homegrown literary award announced two other Canadians will be on its five-member jury — New Republic senior editor Jeet Heer, and former Giller finalist Kathleen Winter, who was nominated for Annabel — as part of the lineup.

British author Samantha Harvey, who was previously nominated for the Orange Prize and the Man Booker Prize, and Alan Warner, the Scottish writer of eight novels including The Stars in the Bright Sky, round out the list.

Together the jury will pick this year's winner of the best Canadian novel or short story collection published in English.

The long list of Giller contenders will be revealed on Sept. 6, while the short list will be unveiled on Sept. 26.

An awards gala will be held at Toronto's Ritz-Carlton on Nov. 8.

The Giller Prize, founded in 1994, is named after the late literary journalist Doris Giller. The winning author receives $100,000 while the other finalists will get $10,000.

Last year, the Giller Prize expanded its jury from three to five members for the first time in its history.

Organizers said they hoped the move would bring lively debate to the deliberations.

Hill's Book of Negroes was longlisted for the Giller Prize in 2007.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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Your essential daily news



Opulence shock: Rolls Royce releases gold-plated Palm Edition 999 Wraith

If you're in it for the heavy haul



REVIEW

Canyon a great choice for those with oversized needs

Jil McIntosh
For Metro Canada



Up until now, full-size trucks have been the primary home for diesel engines. But for 2016, GM's midsize GMC Canyon, and its mechanical-twin Chevrolet Colorado, also add diesel power to the portfolio.

It's a four-cylinder with a displacement of just 2.8 litres. But while the Canyon's available 3.6-litre V6 engine makes 269 lb.-ft. of torque, the low-end power that's important on trucks, this little diesel churns out 369 lb.-ft.

It gives this midsize a maximum towing capacity of up to 7,600 lbs. (3,447 kg), an extra 600 lbs. over the V6's top ability.

Given its more manageable footprint over the full-size GMC Sierra, the Canyon could be a good choice for tradespeople who need to haul loads into the city core, or easier parking for those who regularly tow boats or campers.

The diesel's better fuel economy is also a bonus, but you'll need to drive it a lot before you begin to see the savings.

The engine is a $4,390 option, and only available on the two highest SLE and SLT trims levels. It comes in 4x2 or 4x4 configuration, but can only be added to Crew Cab models, not to Extended Cab.

It's a great engine to drive, especially in combination with the Canyon's well-weighted steering and smooth handling, and while its diesel rumble is noticeable, I like its sound.

It's hooked exclusively to a six-speed automatic transmission and includes an integrated exhaust brake that helps to slow the truck down on deceleration, a great feature when you're towing.

The Canyon's interior looks like a scaled-down version of the full-size GMC, with easy-to-use controls, comfortable front seats, and rear seats that flip up for access to covered storage cubbies below.

> **The Canyon could be a good choice for tradespeople who need to haul loads into the city core.**

You can kit it out with a number of higher-end options, including navigation, forward collision alert, and heated leather seats.

Although I've listed competitors, all of them are gasoline-only.

For now, GM's twins are the only midsize trucks available with diesel. It's not an engine for everyone, but for those who work their trucks hard, it could potentially be the perfect choice.

THE CHECKLIST | 2016 GMC CANYON

THE BASICS

Type. Four-door, midsize pickup truck
Power. 2.8-litre four-cylinder diesel (181/369)
Transmission. Six-speed automatic
Price. $31,360 (base SLE); $47,690 (tested), plus destination

COOL FEATURES

- Duralife long-life brake rotors
- Bed-access step in the bumper end
- Available factory spray-in bedliner
- Easy-lift locking tailgate
- Apple CarPlay smartphone connectivity
- Available lane departure warning
- In-vehicle WiFi hot spot



2016 GMC CANYON PHOTOS: JIL MCINTOSH FOR METRO; ALL OTHERS HANDOUT

POINTS

- As with other diesels, it requires diesel exhaust fluid to control emissions.
- It won the midsize category at the Canadian Truck King Challenge last fall.
- The exhaust brake operates automatically depending on speed and incline.
- It can run on biodiesel, if you can find a station that carries it.

MARKET POSITION

- The diesel scandal has affected cars, but it's still a popular choice for pickup trucks. If enough buyers get past the Canyon engine's high buy-in, you might see other manufacturers offering it in smaller trucks as well.

THE COMPETITION



Toyota Tacoma
Base price: $27,995



Nissan Frontier
Base price: $23,148



Honda Ridgeline
Base price: TBA

TOKYO MOTOR SHOW

Mini races out new convertible that kicks it up a notch

Just three months after the standard convertible's unveiling at the Tokyo Motor Show, the hot John Cooper Works edition is already racing on to the scene.

Announced on Friday, the new car keeps everything that is good about the latest cabriolet — a roomier, higher quality cabin, a sturdier chassis and a more focused driving experience — and turns the dial up noticeably.

But that doesn't mean that Mini has tightened a few bolts or tweaked the standard car's existing powerplant. The John Cooper Works edition gets its own special TwinPower turbo two-litre four-cylinder unit. This offers 231bhp — that's 39hp more than any other current soft-top Mini can offer and 20hp more than the last generation John Cooper Works model could serve up. That extra power is channelled to the front wheels and, if it's via the optional Steptronic transmission, will deliver a 0-100km/h time of 6.5 seconds. With the standard manual transmission the car's 0.1 seconds slower to that mark but can hit a 242km/h top speed.

But Minis in general, and John Cooper models in particular, are about the all-round driving sensation. So to ensure this car feels as planted and as responsive as a go-kart it's got Brembo brakes as standard plus speed-sensitive steering support to firm up or loosen the wheel depending on whether you're negotiating a parking space or a hairpin bend.

There is also an electronic differential lock and dynamic traction control as standard while a similarly dynamic damper control system is also available as an option.

The car also looks like it means business, even at a standstill. It sits on 17-inch alloys, boasts the twin John Cooper racing stripes (as an option) and is available in a unique Rebel Green paint finish. The front grille has wider, more menacing air intakes and the side sills are more pronounced as is the rear apron and taillight design.

Inside, it's a similar story. Standard seats have been replaced by John Cooper sports seats, there's leather trim, and stainless steel pedals. AFP



The new Mini John Cooper Works Convertible . ©MINI

Cheap gas tests eco-friendly push

AUTOMAKERS

Achieving gains more challenging for industry



GMC's new Acadia SUV weighs 318 kg less than this 2013 version it replaces. Using lighter materials is one way car companies can reduce their carbon footprint. ©CHICAGO AUTO SHOW

Beneath the hoods of the cars showing in Detroit this week lie engines that are as powerful as ever, but are smaller and, helped by direct injection, guzzle less gas.

Automakers have subbed out stainless steel for aluminum and other lighter-weight materials, and added more gears to let engines run in "sweet spot" mode more often, so that their cars and trucks can save money on fuel and emit less climate-harming pollutants. But with gasoline prices now nearly half of what they were just two years ago, the question is, do consumers care?

Under pressure from government regulation, fuel economy in U.S. cars has risen 26 per cent since 2004. Yet there are signs of flagging progress. Data from the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute suggest fuel economy fell in 2015, with a significant drop in the last months of the year. With gasoline prices so low, customers appear less pressured to buy more fuel-efficient cars, not to mention electrics and hybrids.

"You hear a lot of noise about demand for hybrids not being so big," Honda executive vice president John Mendel said at a launch Monday of its Ridgeline pickup truck. "When (gasoline) was four or five bucks a gallon, everybody was clamoring for anything — a hybrid, ... something to take the sting out."

Government pressure since the late 2000s to improve fuel consumption has spurred the gains. Compliance is determined on gains of individual models and also whether the average efficiency of an automaker's overall fleet is improving enough. Trucks and SUVs, for example, are not expected to get the same mileage as sedans and subcompacts, only to improve their mileage each year. But with trucks and SUVS now dominating sales, automakers have to keep improving the performance of those vehicles.

> **"You hear a lot of noise about demand for hybrids not being so big."**
> John Mendel, Honda

Achieving gains has become more difficult now that the easiest changes — the "low-hanging fruit" — have been implemented, said Wade Newton of the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers.

Others say there is still lots of potential.

"There's lots of room to get efficiency from these engines before we get rid of the internal-combustion engine," said General Motors executive vice president Mark Reuss. AFP

DETROIT AUTO SHOW

Green is the theme

One of the major themes at this year's Detroit Auto Show was greater environmental responsibility, whether via hybrids, plug-in electric or fuel cell.

"We believe Mirai and hydrogen fuel cell technology represents the future of sustainable transportation," said Jim Lentz, Toyota North America CEO.

Toyota is even inviting other companies to use its patents.

"We hope sharing this technology with the auto industry will bring us closer to achieving a future hydrogen society helping us to improve lives for generations to come," continued Lentz.

For its show car, Audi unveiled a hydrogen powered crossover, the h-tron Quattro, and Mercedes and BMW have also indicated their desire to explore the technology, but for the moment, hybrids are key. AFP



Audi's h-tron Quattro. ©NEWSPRESS

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Boxing promoter Bob Arum plans to make a statement against Donald Trump with an all-Hispanic undercard on his next big pay-per-view

CHL

Moose pair make NHL scouting cut



Kristen Lipscombe
Metro | Halifax



Otto Somppi and Max Fortier
JEFF HARPER/METRO

A couple of Halifax Mooseheads players have made the cut for this season's midterm rankings from central scouting for the NHL.

Forward Otto Somppi, 18, is listed at 47th, while forward Maxime Fortier, also 18, comes in at 145th on the mid-term rankings released Tuesday by the NHL Central Scouting Service.

The six-foot-one, 181-pound Somppi of Helsinki was drafted 19th overall by the Herd in the 2015 CHL Import Draft. He's tallied nine goals and 21 assists in 39 games this season.

The five-foot-ten, 178-pound Fortier of Lachine, Que., is 14th in QMJHL scoring with 24 goals and 31 assists in 46 games.

Of the 210 North American skaters and 30 North American goaltenders listed on the rankings, 152 of those are from the CHL, with 34 from the Q-league.

Both Herd members have also been ranked on TSN analyst Craig Button's recent Top 100 prospects, with Fortier listed 54th and Somppi at 69th.

Fortier suited up for Team QMJHL for the CHL Canada/Russia Series in November, while Somppi will play for Team Orr in the upcoming NHL/CHL Top Prospects Game.

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Murray calls ATP ads 'hypocritical'

Andy Murray finds it "hypocritical" that tennis authorities are trying to stamp out match-fixing run by gambling syndicates but have partnered with a major gambling company that is now advertising on the Australian Open's show courts.

The issues have collided at this year's Australian Open, where tennis was overshadowed for a second day Tuesday by allegations that match-fixing has gone unchecked in tennis.

The governing bodies for tennis have presented a unified front in rejecting the claims.

But Murray said the sport was sending mixed messages by allowing betting company William Hill to become one of the Australian Open's sponsor's this year and advertise on the tournament's three main show courts.

"I'm not really pro that," Murray, a four-time finalist in Melbourne said Tuesday, after advancing to the second round.

"I think it's a little bit hypocritical," Murray added. "You know, because I don't believe the players are allowed to be sponsored by betting companies, but the tournaments are. I don't really understand how it all works. I think it's a bit strange." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TENNIS

Nadal eliminated in Round 1
Rafael Nadal lost in the first round of a major for only the second time in his career, beaten in five sets by Fernando Verdasco at the Australian Open in a reversal of their epic, five-hour, 14-minute semifinal here seven years ago.

On Tuesday, Fernando Verdasco rallied from a 2-1 deficit and recovered a break in the fifth set to claim a 7-6 (6), 4-6, 3-6, 7-6 (4), 6-2 win in 4 hours and 41 minutes, only his third victory in 17 matches against his fellow Spanish left-hander.

There were two upsets on the women's side, with No. 2 Simona Halep and seven-time Grand Slam winner Venus Williams also losing in the first round.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



It's doubtful John Scott's usual forte will be on display at the NHL all-star weekend later this month. ROSS D. FRANKLIN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Not-so-great Scott gets his all-star spot

NHL

Minor-leaguer will get to play in showcase game after all

John Scott's improbable road to the NHL all-star game took another twist Tuesday, with the league confirming he will keep his elected role as Pacific Division captain despite a trade and a demotion.

The journeyman tough guy was chosen to lead the Pacific team at the showcase tournament by a fan vote, but last week he was traded out of the division as part of a deal between Arizona and Montreal. The Canadiens promptly assigned him to the American Hockey League's St. John's IceCaps, making his eligibility for the all-star festivities on Jan. 30-31 in Nashville unclear.

Though the NHL did not publicly comment on the issue until Tuesday, there was some debate as to whether the league would allow a lumbering, six-foot-eight fighter with 11 career points to play in a 3-on-3 tournament designed to showcase speed and skill.

Fans angry about the prospect of Scott not being allowed to play in the game took to social media over the weekend, creating a FreeJohnScott hashtag.

The NHL says Scott's move to a different division and his minor league assignment "created a unique circumstance that required review."

Scott told the Arizona Republic when voting began that he didn't want to be voted into the all-star game.

"It would be cool, but I definitely don't deserve it at this point," he said. "You never know. There's still some time left. I could turn it on."

But later he warmed to the idea, printing T-shirts he planned to give to Pacific Division teammates that read: "Thanks for believing in me. Love always, The Captain." Those shirts were sold online for charity after the trade.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Habs have quickly become have-nots

Fire the coach? Make a big trade? Human sacrifice, perhaps?

OK, the last one is a stretch, but it is Montreal and it seems everyone has an antidote to what ails the Canadiens these days.

With the NHL club slumping badly in the past six weeks, the team's fan base is reeling and offering suggestions on how to stop its historic free fall.

"We need scorers, we need big scorers," Matthew Messier, 21, said Tuesday as he minded the ticket booth at a downtown Montreal ice rink. "They need a real star — pay the price for a young guy who can score goals."



Montreal coach Michel Therien GETTY IMAGES

After starting the year at 9-0 — a team record for the beginning of a season — and trailing for only 2:57 in that stretch, the Canadiens have been plummeting since losing all-world goalie Carey Price to injury for a second time on Nov. 25.

On Dec. 1, the team had a 19-4-3 record. Since Dec. 2, the Canadiens have managed nine points out of a possible 40, last in the league during that time.

As a deep freeze settled over Montreal and they prepared to play their bitter rivals from Boston on Tuesday night, the Canadiens found themselves on the verge of falling out of a playoff spot. THE CANADIAN PRESS

10

Montreal led the Atlantic Division by 10 points over Ottawa at the end of November. They're now fifth in the division, seven points behind the leading Florida Panthers.

Kick start to the Super Bowl

AFC CHAMPIONSHIP

McManus and Gostkowski could sway close contest

Antonio Smith says nobody can get into Tom Brady's head. That didn't stop Denver's defensive lineman from trying by labelling New England's quarterback a crybaby.

"I've never seen any quarterback look to the referee right after he gets sacked more than Brady," Smith said with a smile. "Every time he gets sacked he looks at the ref like, 'You see him sack me? Was that supposed to happen? He did it a little hard. Please throw a 15-yard penalty on him. Get him fined."'

Both teams know the AFC championship won't be decided by potshots — and maybe not even by the golden arms of Brady and Peyton Manning when they square off for the 17th — and likely final — time Sunday in Denver.

Maybe it'll come down to two of the greatest toes on turf instead. Especially with Denver sporting the league's stingiest defence and Manning reduced to managing the Broncos' no-longer explosive offence.

New England's Stephen Gostkowski was the NFL's top kicker in 2015, winning his second All-Pro honour after leading the league with 151 points.

Denver's Brandon McManus tied an NFL record by nailing all five of his kicks in tricky crosswinds in Denver's 23-16 win over Pittsburgh in the divisional round. Sunday's forecast in Denver calls for clouds and temperatures at kickoff around -5 C Manning and Brady.

Yet ... last weekend's game was also supposed to be mild.

"During warmups, we went out there and it was a pretty calm day, a nice, tempered day," McManus said. "We come out seven minutes before kickoff and I see a 30 m.p.h. crosswind come in over the Rockies."

With the goal posts swaying wildly from the gusts almost the entire game, McManus converted field goals of 28, 41, 51, 41 and 45 yards, joking it was such a tricky task that he just kept aiming "at the guy holding the beer in the top left corner."

"I think all of them were big," said Demaryius Thomas, who had one of seven dropped passes thanks to the blustery winds. "He kept us in the game with the field goals. Him being able to kick with this wind helped us."

Gostkowski is accustomed to kicking in bad conditions, too. So, if it gets windy Sunday, neither he nor McManus will fret.

"You kind of have to hit a ball to a spot and hopefully the wind takes it," McManus said. "I had that 51-yarder right before halftime. I thought it was going to be easy down the middle, and it barely sneaked in."

Gostkowski's field goals from 40 and 32 yards in the fourth quarter last weekend helped the Patriots stave off Kanas City 27-20. He also nailed a 47-yarder as time expired to send the game to overtime when New England visited Denver on Nov. 29, a game in which McManus missed from the same distance.

While Gostkowski, a 10-year veteran, breezed to his first All-Pro honour since 2008, McManus started out hot, then slumped down the stretch. He made his first 13 kicks, including 57- and 56-yarders in the opener against Baltimore, and was named the AFC's special teams player of the month in October.

His late-season slump included missed kicks in five consecutive games, including one off the left upright in a three-point loss to Oakland. He also shanked one from 45 yards against Cincinnati with no time left but atoned for that miss with a 37-yarder in overtime. His coach never lost faith in the second-year pro who'd been cut by the previous coaching staff last year and won his job back over the summer.

"I think Brandon's confidence is up right now," Gary Kubiak said. "I think he's had a really good year. He's worked through a little rough patch and he's come back. Now he's as good as he's been all season long."

Gostkowski has missed on just three of 39 tries, counting the playoffs, and McManus is 35 of 40.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



The Patriots' Stephen Gostkowski, right, was the best kicker in the league this season while Broncos' Brandon McManus is coming off a fine display against the Steelers. GETTY IMAGES

> **You kind of have to hit a ball to a spot and hopefully the wind takes it.** Denver Broncos kicker Brandon McManus on making 5 from 5 in windy conditions against the Steelers on Sunday.

IN BRIEF

Sources: COC officials fired amid harassment claims

Three high-ranking Canadian Olympic Committee officials have been dismissed days after the release of a critical report on how the organization handled allegations of sexual harassment by its former president.

Two sources confirmed Tuesday that chief sport officer Caroline Assalian, executive director of operations Judy Crute and human resources manager Robert Cousin are no longer with the organization. A COC spokesman said the organization would not comment on personnel issues.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hamilton Ticats sign head coach/GM Austin to contract extension

The Hamilton Tiger-Cats have signed general manager, head coach and vice-president of football operations Kent Austin to a contract extension.

Since joining the club in December 2012, Austin has led Hamilton to two East Division titles, three Eastern Final appearances and Grey Cup games in 2013 and 2014. Austin was a finalist for the CFL's coach of the year in 2013 after capturing the honour in 2007 after leading the Saskatchewan Roughriders to a Grey Cup title as their head coach.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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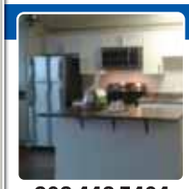
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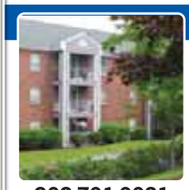
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RECIPE Margherita Pizza Dinner Waffles



PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI



Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

Our love of breakfast for dinner has forced us to create this addictive culinary mashup.

Ready in
Prep time: 5 minutes
Total time: 15 minutes
Makes 4 waffles

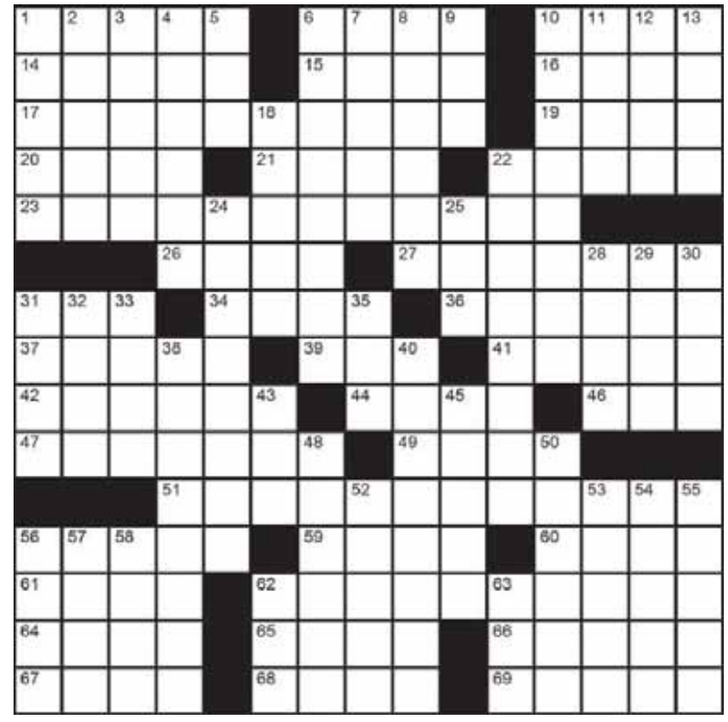
Ingredients
- 3 cups spelt flour
- 3 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 tsp baking soda
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 tsp garlic powder
- 2 1/2 cups milk
- 1 cup cubed mozzarella
- freshly chopped basil
- 1/4 cup fresh shaved Parmesan cheese
- 1 cup marinara sauce

Directions
1. In a large bowl, whisk together flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt and garlic powder. Add the milk; stir until blended.
2. Heat your waffle iron to desired temperature.
3. Ladle the batter into preheated waffle iron and sprinkle with 1/4 cup mozzarella and basil. Cook the waffles until golden and crisp. Serve immediately with an extra sprinkle of mozzarella, Parmesan cheese and a side of marinara sauce for dipping.

FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT SWEETPOTATOCHRONICLES.COM

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. 'Low budget', in an advertisement
6. __-Carotene
10. __-Cola
14. Denial to a Drill Sergeant: 2 wds.
15. Bert of "The Wizard of Oz" (1939)
16. Charge card, e.g.
17. Do this via eight glasses a day we're often told: 2 wds.
19. Tarry
20. "Makes sense.": 2 wds.
21. George Gershwin's 'Blue' musical work, briefly
22. Room service place
23. Where 'there is a town' in #24-Down: 2 wds.
26. Abominable snowman
27. TV host's directive to the standing audience: 2 wds.
31. Wilt
34. Monetary units in Albania
36. Jazz singer Ms. Holiday
37. Take _ __ of faith
39. Director Mr. Mendes
41. Some shipbuilding woods
42. Helps
44. Ancient Rome: He who declared "Carthage must be destroyed."
46. In shape
47. Beer containers
49. Nautical hook
51. Events for getting tarot and palm readings: 2 wds.
56. Chills
59. Track event
60. Virginia willow
61. Italian harp
62. I'm Sorry! Canadians are known for their what?
64. Perceived
65. Sea lettuce
66. Bruce Cockburn's "If _ __ Falls"
67. Musical quality
68. Country star Mr. Campbell
69. Quiet attention-getters

DOWN
1. "There's just no _ sight!": 2 wds.
2. Rome's famous street, Via del _
3. Wickerwork material
4. XC
5. Mork from __
6. Shoes like Carrie's on "Sex and the City", Manolo __
7. Wear away: 2 wds.
8. 'Adventure Territory' town in Manitoba: 2 wds.
9. LAX posting
10. The whole kit and __
11. Overlook
12. Formally give up
13. Figure skating jump
18. "Murder, She __"
22. Socially click with someone: 3 wds.
24. Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young song
25. Tease
28. Patron saint of Norway
29. Collaborative website name prefix
30. Branch 'building'
31. Swedish car
32. Inventor, Thomas __ Edison
33. Equipment
35. Cul-de-quoi?
38. 1980 Leslie Nielsen movie!
40. Illusionist
43. Fox's adjective
45. Be silent, to a musician
48. Monk's manuscript
50. Dramatically falls to the floor
52. Bisect
53. Old Roman roads
54. Put back to zero
55. Mailing enclosures, commonly
56. Throw
57. Celebrated cookie
58. Receptive
62. Small dog
63. The Raven poet's monogram

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
Group activities will become more important now that the Sun is moving in your favour. Join forces with like-minded people and see how far you can travel together. Find new ways to improve the world.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
The Sun's move into the career area of your chart will boost ambitions. Be realistic about what you can achieve, the fewer goals you have the more energy you can put into them.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
One of the most positive times of the year begins for you today. You'll be constantly busy the next few weeks, dealing with people and issues that inspire the best in you.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
You may feel left out today but don't — you're the one sending subconscious signals that you want to be left alone. You have a lot to think about and you can't think in a crowd.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
The Sun moves into your opposite sign today, which means you'll have to take other people's needs and desires into consideration. Remember: when doing good things for others you benefit yourself as well.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You tend to avoid situations that are hard to control, but what happens today will force you to take part in a stressful activity. You'll find that you do well when the pressure is on.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Whatever crises you've had to deal with of late you can now forget all about them. A new set of cosmic influences will provide you with no end of opportunities to show the world that you are back to your best.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Put your needs on hold for a while and do what you can to help loved ones and relatives. The more you do for others now the more freedom you will have later in the year.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You will find it easier to make your own decisions and your first decision must be to distance yourself from someone who annoys you. Act as if they no longer exist.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Over the next few weeks you will have to work harder than ever. As a Capricorn you will never reach a point where you are satisfied with your lot.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
The Sun's move into your birth sign today makes this the ideal time to start new projects, but first you must give up on something that is not working. What you accomplish next will more than make up for it.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
Pay attention to what your inner voice tells you. The more you think about what you are doing now the more enjoyable your life will be when the Sun enters your sign next month.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

	6		2				9	
4			8					3
	7			4				
					5			2
	3	6				8	7	
5			3					
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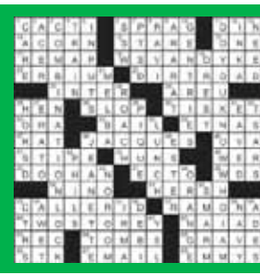
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YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers from the play page.

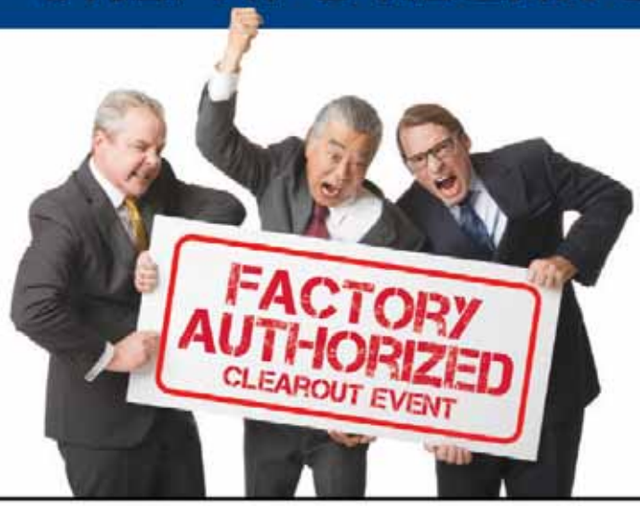
for more fun and games go to metronews.ca/games



1	3	6	9	2	5	8	4	7
2	9	4	7	8	3	5	1	6
8	7	5	4	1	6	9	2	3
3	1	2	5	6	4	7	8	9
5	6	9	1	7	8	4	3	2
7	4	8	2	3	9	6	5	1
4	5	7	3	9	1	2	6	8
9	8	1	6	5	2	3	7	4
6	2	3	8	4	7	1	9	5

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